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HOW TO GET INFORMATION

From the United States Department of Agriculture

FILE COPY

Office of Communications

Economic Analysis
F&V, AMS

September 1998

This directory lists sources of information in the U.S. Department of Agriculture and its various agencies.

How To Get Information is available electronically for downloading on USDA's homepage at: <http://www.usda.gov/news/howto/howto.htm>

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Office of Communications

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FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE represents U.S. farmers and the food and agricultural sector abroad through a network of overseas offices. FAS collects, analyzes, and disseminates information about global supply and demand, trade trends, and market opportunities. FAS seeks improved market access for U.S. products; administers export financing and market development programs; provides export services; carries out food aid and market-related technical assistance programs; and provides linkages to world resources and international organizations.

RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY improves the economic stability of agriculture by providing producers a sound system of crop insurance. Federal crop insurance covers losses due to unavoidable causes such as drought, excessive moisture, hail, wind, frost, insects, and disease. Currently 62 major crops are insurable. Crop insurance is available from crop insurance agents and certain Farm Service Agency offices. Insurance protection must be purchased prior to sales

closing dates that vary by crop and region.

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CENTER FOR NUTRITION POLICY AND PROMOTION provides direction and coordination for USDA's nutrition research and policy activities. The Center publishes the *Family Economics and Nutrition Review* and *Expenditures on Children by Families*, and in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, develops and publishes the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

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FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE

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Marketing and Regulatory Programs

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE provides market news reports; develops quality grade standards for agricultural commodities; provides voluntary grading services for livestock, meat, poultry, eggs, dairy products, fruits and vegetables, cotton and tobacco; administers marketing regulatory programs, marketing agreements and orders, and research and promotion programs;

administers national organic standards activities; administers USDA's laboratory accreditation program; administers federal-state marketing improvement programs, wholesale facilities research programs, and food purchases for USDA food assistance programs; and is the coordinator for USDA's pesticide data program and pesticide recordkeeping program activities.

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE administers regulatory programs to control or eradicate animal and plant pests and diseases; enforces domestic and port-of-entry agricultural quarantines; licenses and assures safety and effectiveness of veterinary biological products; ensures the safety of agricultural products of biotechnology; enforces the Animal Welfare and Horse Protection Acts; administers programs providing protection to livestock and crops from depredation by rodents, birds and predatory animals; and conducts cooperative programs to eradicate animal and plant pests and diseases in other countries.

GRAIN INSPECTION, PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS ADMINISTRATION facilitates the marketing of livestock, poultry, meat, cereals, oilseeds, and related agricultural products and promotes fair and competitive trading practices for the overall benefit of consumers and American agriculture. One of GIPSA's programs, the Packers and Stockyards Programs, ensures open and competitive markets for livestock, meat, and poultry. The other, the Federal Grain Inspection Service, facilitates the marketing of U.S. grain and related agricultural products by providing the market with Federal quality standards and a uniform system for applying them.

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Natural Resources and Environment

FOREST SERVICE administers programs for applying sound conservation and utilization practices to natural resources of the national forests and national grasslands, for promoting these practices on all forest lands through cooperation with states and private landowners and for carrying out extensive forest and range research.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE provides leadership and administers programs to help people conserve, improve, and sustain our natural resources and environment. Working with landowners and operators in local conservation districts, NRCS addresses this country's natural resource problems as they affect private lands in agriculture and other uses. NRCS is the lead agency in USDA for conservation and administers several programs including, the environmental quality incentives programs, wetlands reserve program, wildlife habitat incentives program, and watershed protection and flood prevention program; leads the national cooperative soil survey and national resource inventory; and provides USDA leadership in assisting landowners and local groups in resource conservation and development projects.

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Research, Education, and Economics Programs

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE conducts mission-oriented research to insure adequate protection of food and agricultural products to meet nutritional and other needs of American consumers in the animal and plant sciences, including disease and pest controls, soil and water conservation, postharvest processing and storage of commodities, safety of food, human nutrition, and integration of agricultural systems. In addition, **ARS** measures food consumption and dietary levels of the population; develops standard reference tables on the nutritive values of foods; and develops and cooperates with others in the development of materials to aid the public in meeting dietary needs, with emphasis on good nutrition, appropriate cost, palatability, safety, avoiding food waste, and conserving energy. ARS also operates the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, DC., and the National Agricultural Library (NAL) in Beltsville, MD. **NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY** provides information on agricultural research and related

subjects to scientists, educators and farmers using computer data bases; coordinates and is primary resource for national network of state land grant university and field libraries; and serves as the U.S. center for the international agriculture information system.

COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE is pledged to meeting the country's needs for research knowledge and educational programs that will enable people to make better informed decisions. Through partnership with the system of State Agricultural Experiment Stations (SAES), land-grant, other colleges and universities along with other public and private research and education organizations, **CSREES** is USDA's principal link to the university system for the initiation and development of agricultural research and education programs. **CSREES** is the federal partner in the Cooperative Extension System, a nationwide public-funded nonformal education network that combines the expertise and resources of Federal, State, and local governments through USDA, 103 land-grant universities, and 3,150 county Extension units. **CSREES** also administers the National Research Initiative, a competitively awarded grants program targeted to fundamental and mission-linked research and the Fund for rural America, a competitive research, education and extension grant program.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE conducts research in domestic and foreign agricultural economics; analyzes factors affecting agriculture, farm productivity, financing, use of resources and potentials of rural areas; evaluates marketing potentials and development and marketing costs; studies U.S. trade in agricultural products and the role of agriculture in economic development of other nations; and reports situation and outlook, commodity projections, price spreads, and analysis of U.S. farm commodity programs. Office of Energy coordinates USDA's energy policy, including all issues dealing with agricultural energy use and agricultural impacts of energy development and use; coordinates the energy activities of all USDA agencies; and identifies information resource personnel in other agencies.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE NASS conducts monthly and annual surveys and prepares official USDA data and estimates of production, supply, prices, and other information necessary to maintain orderly agricultural operations. Through the Agricultural Statistics Board, about 400 National reports are released to the public every year with estimates covering about 120 crops and 45 livestock items. NASS also conducts the census of agriculture which is currently done every 5 years. The current census of agriculture is being conducted during 1998. Data from the census will be available in print and electronically in early 1999. The census is a complete accounting of U.S. agricultural production and the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the Nation. The 1997 census will contain data on land use and ownership, operator characteristics, crops, machinery and equipment, livestock, fertilizer, poultry, chemicals, market value of products, energy expenditures, irrigated land, production expenses, type of organization, farm programs, and corporate structure.

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ARS Information, USDA-ARS	309-681-6534	1815 N. University St.
Nat'l Center for Agricultural Utilization		Peoria, IL 61604
		FAX 309-681-6690
ARS Information, USDA-ARS	510-559-6070	800 Buchanan St.
Western Regional Research Center		Albany, CA 94710
		FAX 510-559-5882

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

Public Affairs Officer	301-504-6778	204-NAL	Beltsville, MD 20705
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Library Services	301-504-5755	1Flr-NAL	Beltsville, MD 20705
(reference, lending, etc.)			
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NAL TDD/TTY	301-504-6856
DCRC TDD/TTY	202-720-3434

Information Centers Branch			
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Agricultural Trade and Marketing Information Center			
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Alternative Farming Systems Information Center			
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Animal Welfare Information Center			
Jean Larson	301-504-5215	304-NAL	Beltsville, MD 20705
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Food and Nutrition Information Center			
Vacant	301-504-5719	304-NAL	Beltsville, MD 20705
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Rural Information Center	301-504-5372	304-NAL	Beltsville, MD 20705
Patricia John	pjohn@nal.usda.gov		FAX 301-504-5181
Rural Information Center			
DC area and International	301-504-5547	304-NAL	Beltsville, MD 20705
All other U.S. calls	1-800-633-7701	304-NAL	Beltsville, MD 20705
Reference & User Service Branch			
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Reference Section			
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Reference Desk			
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Russian Wheat Aphids Project			
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Educational Programs Unit			
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Plant Genome Data and Information Center			
Susan McCarthy	301-504-6875	4Flr-NAL	Beltsville, MD 20705
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Technology Transfer Information Center			
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Water Quality Information Center			
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COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE

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ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

Chief, Publishing & Communications Adrie Custer	202-694-5120 Rm S-2018 acuster@econ.ag.gov	1800 M St., NW Washington,DC 20036-5831 FAX 202-694-5638
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Periodicals & Annual Reports Linda Hatcher	202-694-5121 Rm S2042 lhatcher@econ.ag.gov	1800 M St., NW Washington,DC 20036-5831 FAX 202-694-5638
Research Publishing Thomas McDonald thomasm@econ.ag.gov	202-694-5129 Rm S2038	1800 M St., NW Washington,DC 20036-5831 FAX 202-694-5638
Design and Technology Douglas Parry	202-694-5131 Rm S2013 dparry@econ.ag.gov	1800 M St., NW Washington,DC 20036-5831 FAX 202-694-5638
ERS Information Center/ Publications Distribution	202-694-5050 Rm S3100 service@econ.ag.gov	1800 M St.,NW Washington,DC 20036-5831 FAX 202-694-5638

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Valerie Herberger. 301-504-1640
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State-Specific Agricultural Statistics. nass-**@nass.usda.gov
(Replace asterisks with State code, such as AL for Alabama)

State and Telephone No.		State and Telephone No.	
Alabama (Montgomery, AL)	334-279-3555	Montana (Helena, MT)	406-441-1240
Alaska (Palmer, AK)	907-745-4272	Nebraska (Lincoln, NE)	402-437-5541
Arizona (Phoenix, AZ)	602-280-8850	Nevada (Reno, NV)	702-784-5584
Arkansas (Little Rock, AR)	501-296-9926	New England (Concord, NH)	603-224-9639
California (Sacramento, CA)	916-498-5161	New Jersey (Trenton, NJ)	609-292-6385
Colorado (Lakewood, CO)	303-236-2300	New Mexico (Las Cruces, NM)	505-522-6023
Delaware (Dover, DE)	302-739-4811	New York (Albany, NY)	518-457-5570
Florida (Orlando, FL)	407-648-6013	North Carolina (Raleigh, NC)	919-856-4394
Georgia (Athens, GA)	706-546-2236	North Dakota (Fargo, ND)	701-239-5306
Hawaii (Honolulu, HI)	808-973-2907	Ohio (Reynoldsburg, OH)	614-728-2100
Idaho (Boise, ID)	208-334-1507	Oklahoma (Oklahoma City, OK)	405-525-9226
Illinois (Springfield, IL)	217-492-4295	Oregon (Portland, OR)	503-326-2131
Indiana (West Lafayette, IN)	765-494-8371	Pennsylvania (Harrisburg, PA)	717-787-3904
Iowa (Des Moines, IA)	515-284-4340	South Carolina (Columbia, SC)	803-765-5333
Kansas (Topeka, KS)	785-233-2230	South Dakota (Sioux Falls, SD)	605-330-4235
Kentucky (Louisville, KY)	502-582-5293	Tennessee (Nashville, TN)	615-781-5300
Louisiana (Baton Rouge, LA)	504-922-1362	Texas (Austin, TX)	512-916-5581
Maryland (Annapolis, MD)	410-841-5740	Utah (Salt Lake City, UT)	801-524-5003
Michigan (Lansing, MI)	517-377-1831	Virginia (Richmond, VA)	804-771-2493
Minnesota (St. Paul, MN)	612-296-2230	Washington (Olympia, WA)	360-902-1940
Mississippi (Jackson, MS)	601-965-4575	West Virginia (Charleston, WV)	304-345-5958
Missouri (Columbia, MO)	573-876-0950	Wisconsin (Madison, WI)	608-224-4848
		Wyoming (Cheyenne, WY)	307-772-2181

Rural Development

USDA’s Rural Development mission area helps to overcome the problems and fulfill the promise of rural America. Rural Development programs improve the quality of life for rural residents by creating quality housing, a vibrant rural business sector and by ensuring that rural areas are served by utilities and the Information Superhighway. This USDA mission area is comprised of the **RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE SERVICE (RBS)**, **RURAL HOUSING SERVICE (RHS)**, **RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE (RUS)**, and the **OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (OCD)**. RBS’ emphasis is on making loan guarantees or direct loans for projects that preserve or create quality jobs and/or promote a clean rural environment. The Cooperative Services program of RBS provides technical assistance, research and educational materials to strengthen the Nation’s rural cooperatives and to help develop new cooperatives. RHS provides loans and grants that help more than 65,000 moderate-, low-, or very-low-income families secure quality housing each year. The Community Facilities Loan program of RHS builds or improves facilities that provide health care, public safety or other vital public services in rural communities. RUS helps to finance electric, telecommunications, water and wastewater facilities that serve rural areas. The RUS distance learning and medical link programs offer improved education and

health services to isolated rural areas. OCD administers the Rural Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities program, which provides revitalization for economically depressed rural areas.

Acting Director, Legislative & Public Affairs	202-720-9741	Rm 5039-S	Washington, DC 20250
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Deputy Legislative Director	202-720-2446	Rm 6406-S	Washington, DC 20250
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Dorothy Hinden			FAX 202-720-1915

EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST advises the Secretary of Agriculture on policies and programs affecting U.S. agriculture and rural areas, and informs the Secretary on related economic developments. The Office also is a focal point for farm labor and sustainable development issues within USDA. Units under the OCE coordinate the Department’s work in economic forecasting, risk analysis, global climate change, energy policy, and new uses of farm products.

WORLD AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK BOARD coordinates USDA’s supply and use commodity forecasts and agricultural situation and outlook forecasts, issues monthly U.S. and world supply and demand estimates; leads department meteorology and remote sensing activities; assesses the impact of weather on agriculture; and coordinates USDA’s annual Outlook Forum. The Board operates a Joint Agricultural Weather Facility with the National Weather Service.

OFFICE OF RISK ASSESSMENT AND COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS reviews and approves risk assessments and cost-benefit analyses associated with major human health, safety, and environmental regulations. It also serves as a focal point for risk assessment issues and methods in USDA.

GLOBAL CHANGE PROGRAM OFFICE serves as USDA’s focal point for climate change issues affecting agriculture, rural areas, and forestry. The Office coordinates global change issues among five **USDA** agencies and acts as a liaison to other governmental bodies.

OFFICE OF ENERGY POLICY AND NEW USES provides economic analysis on energy policy issues, coordinates USDA energy-related activities within and outside the Department, and studies the feasibility of new uses of agricultural products.

Public Information Officer	202-720-5447	Rm5143-S	Washington, DC 20250-3812
Raymond L. Bridge	rbridge@oce.usda.gov		FAX 202-690-1805

Office of the Chief Economist	202-720-4164	Rm112-A	Washington, DC 20250-3810
	ginny.taylor@usda.gov		FAX 202-690-4915
Agricultural Labor Affairs	202-720-4737	Rm 112-A	Washington, DC 20250-3810
Al French	al.french@usda.gov		FAX 202-690-4915
Sustainable Development	202-720-2456	Rm 112-A	Washington, DC 20250-3810
Adela Backiel	adela.backiel@usda.gov		FAX 202-690-4915
World Agricultural Outlook Board	202-720-5447	Rm5143-S	Washington, DC 20250-3812
	rbridge@oce.usda.gov		FAX 202-690-1805
Chief Meteorologist	202-720-5447	Rm 5143-S	Washington, DC 20250-3812
Albert Peterlin	apeterlin@oce.usda.gov		FAX 202-720-4043
Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis	202-720-8022	Rm 5248-S	Washington, D.C. 20250-3811
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Global Change Program Office	202-720-6186	Rm 112-A	Washington, DC 20250-3810
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Office of Energy Policy and New Uses	202-694-5017	Rm N-4059	1800 M St., NW
James Duffield	duffield@econ.ag.gov		Washington, DC 20036-5831
			FAX 202-694-5665

NATIONAL APPEALS DIVISION

NATIONAL APPEAL DIVISION, operating as an independent entity, makes final determinations on administrative appeals of USDA program decisions.

Freedom of Info Act Officer	703-305-1164	Rm 1113	Park Office Center
Larry Shrum	lshrum@usda.gov		Alexandria, VA 22302
			FAX 703-305-1496

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM ANALYSIS

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM ANALYSIS provides direction and administration of the Department's budgetary functions; reviews program and legislative proposals for program and budget related implications; analyzes program and resource issues and alternatives; and provides departmentwide coordination for and participation in the presentation of budget related matters to the committees of Congress, the press and publics. OBPA also provides departmentwide coordination of the preparation and processing of the legislative program and legislative reports, and departmentwide coordination and processing of regulations.

Freedom of Info Act Officer	202-720-1272	Rm118-E	Washington, DC 20250
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Other USDA Offices

OFFICE OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

OFFICE OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, under the direction of USDA's Chief Financial Officer, provides direction, leadership and coordination of USDA programs in finance, accounting, federal assistance, occupational safety and health, productivity, management improvement and administrative systems; oversees activities of the National Finance Center and fulfills the comptrollership function of the working capital fund; and provides budget, accounting and fiscal services to USDA staff offices and the Office of the Secretary.

Freedom of Info Act Officer Gary Barber	202-720-1221 gbarber@usda.cfo.gov	Rm4088-S	Washington, DC 20250 FAX 202-690-2568
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OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL provides legal counsel and services to the Secretary of Agriculture and all USDA agencies.

Freedom of Info Act Attorney Kenneth Cohen	202-720-5565	Rm2321-S	Washington, DC 20250 FAX 202-720-5837
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OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL conducts and supervises audits and investigations relating to USDA's programs and operations; provides leadership and coordination and recommends policies for activities designed to prevent and detect fraud and abuse and to promote economy, efficiency and effectiveness in USDA programs and operations; and keeps the Secretary and Congress fully informed of problems and deficiencies relating to administration of USDA programs, operations and actions designed to correct such problems and deficiencies.

Director, Info Mngt Div Dianne Smith	202-720-6915 diannes@oig.usda.gov	Rm 8-E	Washington, DC 20250 FAX 202-690-6305
Chief, Policy Dev & Info Nancy Bartel	202-720-5677 nancy@oig.usda.gov	Rm 13-E	Washington, DC 20250 FAX 202-690-6305
Freedom of Info Act Officer (Vacant)	202-720-6915		Washington, DC 20250 FAX 202-690-6305

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION contributes to accomplishing USDA’s mission through leadership and service in administrative management activities, including human resources, property, procurement, civil rights, and small and disadvantaged businesses and competition advocacy.

Freedom of Info Act Liaison	202-720-7765	Rm347-W	Washington, DC 20250
Evelyn Davis			FAX 202-690-4728
Civil Rights Freedom of Information			
Farook Sait	202-720-5212	Rm334-W	Washington, DC 20250
			FAX 202-205-2891

OFFICE OF CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

OFFICE OF CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER is responsible for assuring that information technology is acquired and information resources are managed effectively; for developing and maintaining a sound and integrated information technology architecture for USDA; and for monitoring the performance of USDA’s information technology programs.

Freedom of Info Act Officer	202-720-8657	Rm423-W	Washington, DC 20250
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